



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

December 30, 2003

H.R. 2707 **Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Control Assessment and** **Demonstration Act**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on October 29, 2003

SUMMARY

H.R. 2707 would authorize appropriations totaling \$106 million over the 2004-2010 period for a program to address the infestation of Salt Cedar and Russian Olive trees in national forests and public lands in western states. CBO estimates that the proposed program would cost \$3 million in 2004 and \$42 million over the 2004-2010 period. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts. H.R. 2707 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 2707 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Authorization Level	6	25	25	25	25
Estimated Outlays	3	6	6	11	16

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

H.R. 2707 would direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to assess the extent to which Salt Cedar and Russian Olive trees have infested national forests and public lands in western states. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$5 million for that assessment and \$1 million for grants to universities and nonprofit organizations to identify strategies for managing the infested lands. Based on information from the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service, CBO estimates that those activities would cost \$3 million in each of fiscal years 2004 and 2005.

In addition, H.R. 2707 would authorize the appropriation of \$25 million a year over the 2005-2010 period for grants to support projects on infested lands. Based on historical spending patterns for similar programs, CBO estimates that such grants would cost \$36 million over the 2005-2008 period, with additional spending occurring in later years.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 2707 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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